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(54) Title: METHOD FOR THE EVALUATION OF VELVET ANTLER

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method and apparatus using infrared thermography for predicting an unknown value of an internal composition characteristic of velvet antler *in vivo*, *in vitro*, and/or during cooling or warming. The method involves generating a predictive model using a sample population of antlers to determine a relationship between a known input variable and a known value for the composition characteristic; and using the predictive model to predict the unknown value of the same composition characteristic in an antler not selected from the sample population. Using this value, a map can be made to identify sites and levels of the composition characteristic within the antler. The invention provides a method for predicting an internal composition characteristic of a velvet antler by obtaining an infrared thermographic image of the antler and visually ranking the image by comparison to a corresponding image of an antler with the desired composition characteristic. A method to predict maturity by comparing temperature differences between the antler's tip and base is provided.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01J5/48

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G01N G01J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BIOSIS, EMBASE, MEDLINE, SCISEARCH

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	the whole document ----- -/--	17, 20, 26, 27

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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